reciprocal rights to the Indian carriers. Besides it has also been decided to permit all countries having Air Services Agreements with India to operate up to 7 flights each to any two international airports provided reciprocal enhancement in capacity is granted to Indian carriers. Actual operations, however, are matters of commercial judgement of the airlines concerned.

Financial performance of IA

236. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines has incurred a loss of Rs. 93 crores in the first six months of this financial year;

(b) if so, whether the loss is expected to increase in the second half of this year;

(c) what are the reasons for the high losses of Indian Airlines this year;

(d) whether Indian Airlines is taking any steps to reduce its losses; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) As per the provisional data compiled for the first two months of current financial year 2004-05 *i.e.* April, 2004 & May, 2004, Indian Airlines has earned a net profit of Rs. 5.10 crores.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Modernisation of Babatpur airport

†237. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a scheme to beautify and provide afforestation at Babatpur airport in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether funds have been provided for the said purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) by when beautification and afforestation is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An interior decoration and a landscaping consultant have been appointed to advise on interior decoration and landscaping at this airport. A committee of officers has also been formed to interact with the consultants and to finalise the schemes.

(c) and (d) There is a budget provision of Rs. 10 lacs in current financial year 2004-05 for these works.

(e) The above stated works are likely to be completed by March, 2005.

Concessional schemes of Indian Airlines

238. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines has attracted more passengers after the announcement of concessional fare schemes of travel between various cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last two months;

(c) whether Indian Airlines has any proposal to announce more such schemes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what other commercial strategies do Indian Airlines have to get better seat occupation in its planes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines has carried approximately 4900 more passengers per day in the months of April and May, 2004. The system seat factor during April 04 and May 04 was 61.8% and 67.5% respectively as compared to 55.7% and 60.0% during corresponding months of the previous year 2003-04.

(c) to (e) Indian Airlines constantly endeavours to upgrade and add value to the product offered to the passengers. In order to remain competitive Indian Airlines introduces market driven schemes taking into account factors like seasonality, supply and demand equation etc. Based